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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP**

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March 31, 2005

Dear Editor,

As Mortimer J. Adler once said, "Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life." March was Reading Month and as we approach April and springtime, I earnestly hope we do not lose sight of the noble and worthy goal that Reading Month celebrates each year – to instill the love of reading and learning into the minds and hearts of our children and young people.

During March, I was fortunate to visit many schools in this community in order to share my passion for reading with students, as well as the vital impact that reading has had on my life as a youngster, student, and legislator. As I visited and read with students, I was continually impressed by their eagerness to engage with books, as well as their teachers' commitment to making reading fun and important to them. Studies have shown that young people who love to read enjoy greater success in all school subjects and in life.

Our schools provide excellent guidance and educational opportunities for our students, yet learning happens inside the home as well. Whether you are reading to your child, or he or she is reading to you, the benefits of this shared experience knows no bounds. Reading is not just a tool to enhance the development of our children, but to enhance our own wellbeing, knowledge and spirit of discovery as well. I hope that we, no matter our age, profession, or walk of life, never lose our passion for reading, and commitment to pass that passion along to the next generation.

Reading not only opens the doors to education and enlightenment, but it also grants us great joy and the opportunity to connect as families and as a community.

Sincerely,
Laura M. Toy
State Senator

6th District – Serving Garden City, Livonia, Redford Township and Westland